1997 and the loan became effective in June, 1998 and disbursement for the project was started in July, 1998. The Project was originally scheduled to be completed in June, 2003.

Stabilisation of overburden dumps in open cast coal mines

2488. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has agreed to include jute geotextiles instablisation of over-burden dumps in open cast coal mines; and

(b) if so, what is the status of implementation of the scheme, specially in the Northern Coalfields Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has agreed to include jute geotextiles instablisation of over-burden dumps in open cast coal mines. Related tender is under process. Acceptance of tender will be followed by implementation.

Fire in Moira Colliery

2489. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Coal Worker's Federation, Asansol have sent a memorandum to Government on the 14th July, 2000, regarding fire in Jambad bottom seam of Moira colliery under Bankala area on 9th July, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction to the points raised in the memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) No, Sir. However a copy of the memorandum written by "Indian Mine Working Federation" Asansol to the Ministry of Coal dated 14-7-2000 has been received.

(b) Action taken by ECL on the memorandum are as under:—

(i) Enquiry is under process. Only after completion of the enquiry, responsibility for the fire on any person can be ascertained.

(ii) Final sealing by brick stopping of the suspected area of fire had been completed in II shift of 17-7-2000. Coal Production was stopped on & from first shift of 10-7-2000 to Ist shift of 18-7-2000 amounting to a production loss of 2460 Tonnes. Coal production from the mine has been started from 2nd shift of 18-7-2000.

(iii) Old Workings inspection a regular and routine work, is being carried by in mines of ECL. However, advice has been sent to all under ground mines, to intensify inspection of old workings and isolation stopping of sealed off areas.

Replacement of MIG-21 Aircraft

2490. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4725 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th May, 2000 and state:

(a) the number of accidents that have taken place during the training of trainee pilots in the Air Force after 1st May, 2000;

(b) why the MIG-21 aircraft is still being used despite the fact that it is being considered as sub-optimal; and

(c) how much time Government would take for replacing the Mig-21 aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) One accident has taken place during the training of trainee pilots in the Air Force after 1st May, 2000.

(b) and (c) The Mig-21 aircraft variant presently being used for stage-III training of fighter pilots is considered sub-optimal for training. The IAF has many other variants of MIG-21 aircrafts which are used as fighters in its inventory which have different vintages. Some MIG-21s are expected to stay in IAF till 2017 according to their assigned total technical life.

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